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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,395	09/11/2003	Youichi Konno	031141	3764

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ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP  
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SUITE 1000  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER
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WATKO, JULIE ANNE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2653

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/659,395

Applicant(s)

KONNO, YOUICHI

Examiner

Julie Anne Watko

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/24/04, 09/15/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### *Drawings*

2. Figures 1-2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

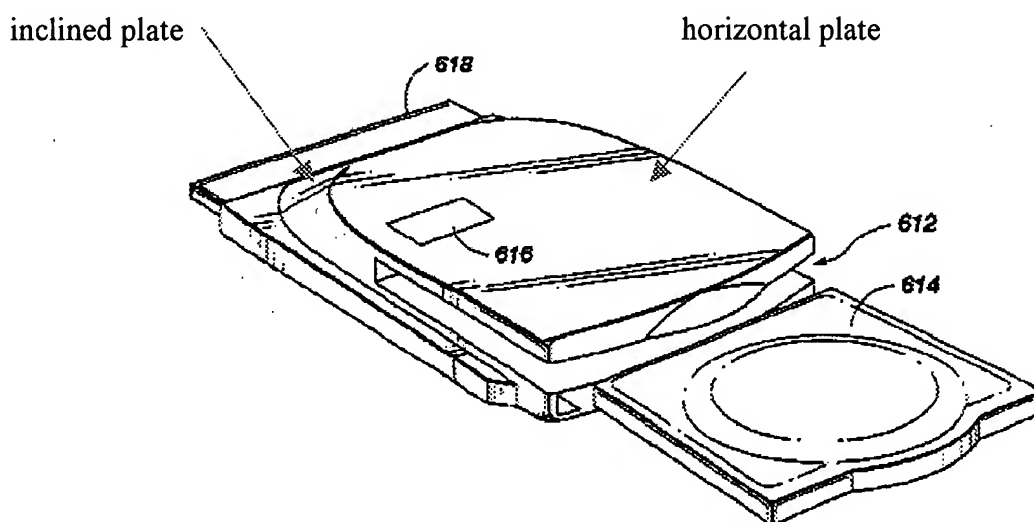
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Roth et al (US Pat. No. 6773291 B1).

As recited in claim 1, Roth et al show a disk drive (see Figs. 32A-B) comprising: a main unit (upper left in 32A) which comprises a disk-driving unit (inherent) for rotating a disk, a data-

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reproducing unit 616 for reproducing data from the disk, and a drive unit (inherent) for moving the data-reproducing unit relative to the disk; and an outer case which has a horizontal plate opposing the main unit and an inclined plate (see Fig. 32A) extending from a rear edge of the horizontal plate, gently inclining and covering the rear part of the main unit.

**Roth et al Fig. 32A**

Regarding claim 3: The product by process limitations in these claims (e.g. “bending”) are directed to the product per se, no matter how actually made, *In re Hirao*, 190 USPQ 15 at 17 (footnote 3). See also *In re Brown*, 173 USPQ 685; *In re Luck*, 177 USPQ 523; *In re Fessman*, 180 USPQ 324; *In re Avery*, 186 USPQ 161; *In re Wertheim*, 191 USPQ 90 (209 USPQ 554 does not deal with this issue); *In re Marosi et al*, 218 USPQ 289; and particularly *In re Thorpe*, 227 USPQ 964, all of which make it clear that it is the patentability of the final structure of the product “gleaned” from the process limitations or steps, which must be determined in a “product by process” claim, and not the patentability of the process limitations. Moreover, an old or obvious product produced by a new method is not a patentable product, whether claimed in

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“product by process” claims or not. Note that the applicant has the burden of proof in such cases, as the above case law makes clear.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth et al (US Pat. No. 6773291) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Roth et al show a disk drive as described above for claims 1 and 3.

Roth et al show the claimed connectors 618, wherein the inclined plate is in the vicinity of the connectors (see Fig. 32A).

Roth et al are silent regarding whether data items about the connectors are indicated on the inclined plate.

Applicant has admitted that it was known in the art at the time Applicant's disclosure was made to provide data items about connectors in the vicinity of connectors.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place indicia on the inclined plate. The rationale is as follows: one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide the indicia at a location proximate to the connectors as is notoriously well known in the art.

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Furthermore, it is well established that mere relocation of known parts is obvious, provided that the functioning of the apparatus is not thereby altered. In re Japikse, 181 F.2d 1019, 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1950).

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Roth et al (US Pat. No. 6773291).

As recited in claim 4, it appears that the inclined plate of Fig. 32A is flat in at least one region, such that the claim is anticipated.

However, even if the inclined plate were not flat, it is well established that a change of shape of a known apparatus is obvious, absent persuasive evidence of unexpected results due to the claimed shape. In re Dailey, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966).

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Enomoto et al (US PAP No. 2004/0117806) show a disk drive outer case comprising an inclined plate (see Figs. 1-4, especially Fig. 1). Wakita et al (US Pat. No. 6577506 B1) show a card type electronic device (see Figs. 2 and 9, for example). Kakinoki (US Pat. No. 6266720 B1) shows a circuit card (see Figs. 5-6, for example). Yamamori shows a disc recording and/or reproducing apparatus (see Figs. 2-3, for example). Matsumoto (US Pat. No. 5668682) shows a removable magnetic disk drive (see Figs. 5, 7 and 10, for example).

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie Anne Watko whose telephone number is (703) 305-7742.

The examiner can normally be reached on Tues. & Thurs. until 9PM, Wed. & Fri. until 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on (703)305-6137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Julie Anne Watko  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2653

March 8, 2005  
JAW

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Julie Anne Watko', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.